

Data Spotlight

Treatment Episode Data Set

March 17, 2011

Adults Represent Majority of Inhalant Treatment Admissions

More than 1 million adults use inhalants each year,¹ but little is known about this public health problem among adults because research on inhalant abuse often focuses on the adolescent population and overlooks the abuse of these substances among other age groups. Inhalants are volatile substances that produce chemical vapors that can be sniffed or inhaled to produce mind-altering effects and the chronic use of which may cause irreversible damage to the brain, kidneys, and lungs.^{2,3} Therefore, this *Data Spotlight* examines the characteristics of adults who were admitted to substance abuse treatment for inhalant abuse.

According to the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), inhalants were identified as the primary, secondary, or tertiary substance of abuse in 3,273 substance abuse treatment admissions in 2008. Of these admissions, slightly more than half were adults aged 18 or older (54 percent). The largest proportion (52 percent) of adult inhalant admissions was for individuals aged 18 to 29, whereas 16 percent of these admissions were aged 45 or older (Figure 1). Most (72 percent) were male, more than one third had less than a high school education (38 percent), and almost three quarters (72 percent) were non-Hispanic White (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Treatment Admissions Involving Inhalants among Adults Aged 18 or Older, by Age Group: 2008

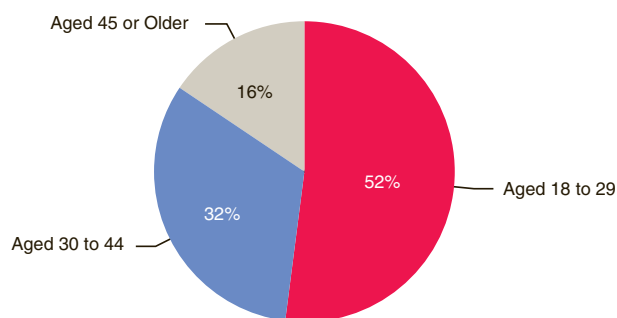
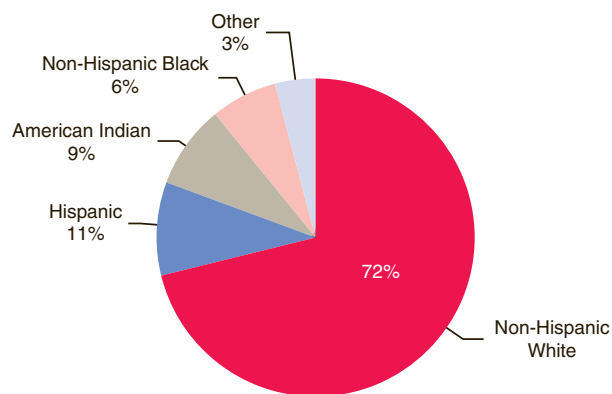


Figure 2. Treatment Admissions Involving Inhalants among Adults Aged 18 or Older, by Race/Ethnicity: 2008



Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2010). *NSDUH Table 1.48A—Inhalant use in lifetime, past year, and past month among persons aged 18 or older, by demographic characteristics: Numbers in thousands, 2008 and 2009*. Retrieved from <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/2k9NSDUH/tabs/Sect1peTabs47to92.htm#Tab1.48A>

² National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2010, December). *Research Report Series: Inhalant abuse* (NIH Publication Number 10-3818). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health. [Available as a PDF at: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/PDF/RRinhalants.pdf>]

³ Inhalants do not include substances that can be snorted or sniffed in powder form, such as cocaine or heroin.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), 2008, based on data received through August 31, 2009. TEDS is a compilation of data on the demographic characteristics and substance abuse problems of those admitted for substance abuse treatment in the United States. TEDS is one component of the Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS), an integrated data system maintained by the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA.

